

Message Text

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CINCUSNAVEUR PRIORITY

CINCUSAFE PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L ATHENS 3155

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, GR, US

SUBJECT: US-GREEK BASE NEGOTIATIONS: DRAFT FINAL COMMUNIQUE

1. AT APRIL 24 PLENARY, US SUBMITTED FOR GREEK CONSIDERATION DRAFT TEXT OF COMMUNIQUE WHICH COULD BE ISSUED JOINTLY AT CONCLUSION OF CURRENT ROUND OF NEGOTIATIONS. GREEKS ACCEPTED DRAFT FOR STUDY, BUT AMBASSADOR CALOGERAS INDICATED AT START OF SESSION THAT GREEK GOVERNMENT PREFERRED ISSUE UNILATERAL STATEMENT AND THAT UNTIL HE HAD OBTAINED CLEARANCE FROM HIGHER AUTHORITIES, HE WOULD BE UNABLE TO AUTHORIZE DISCUSSION OF US TEST EVEN AT WORKING GROUP LEVEL. AMBASSADOR CALOGERAS IMPLIED THIS CLEARANCE MIGHT NOT BE OBTAINED BEFORE SATURDAY, APRIL 26.

2. WE CAN ONLY ASSUME THAT IF GREEKS ARE PREPARED TO
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CONSIDER JOINT COMMUNIQUE, CONSIDERABLE CHANGES WILL HAVE

TO BE MADE IN US DRAFT. NONETHELESS, EMBASSY WOULD WELCOME COMMENTS AND CLEARANCE FROM WASHINGTON OF OUR DRAFT, TOGETHER WITH SUFFICIENT FLEXIBILITY TO ENABLE US TO ALTER TEXT TO SUIT GREEK SENSITIVITIES IN DESIGNATED AREAS IF THIS IS NECESSARY TO REACH AGREEMENT WITH THEM ON A JOINT COMMUNIQUE AT THE SCHEDULED APRIL 26TH PLENARY.

3. BEGIN TEXT: (A) DELEGATIONS REPRESENTING THE GOVERNMENTS OF GREECE AND THE UNITED STATES MET IN ATHENS APRIL 7 - 26 FOR A SECOND ROUND OF NEGOTIATIONS CONCERNING MUTUAL DEFENSE MATTERS. THE GREEK AND US DELEGATIONS WERE LED RESPECTIVELY BY AMBASSADOR PETROS CALOGERAS AND MINISTER MONTEAGLE STEARNS AND INCLUDED EXPERTS FROM THE HELLENIC MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, THE HELLENIC ARMED SERVICES AND THE US DEPARTMENTS OF STATE AND DEFENSE. (B) THE TALKS WERE DETAILED IN CHARACTER AND FOCUSED PRINCIPALLY ON EXISTING US FACILITIES IN GREECE. THESE DISCUSSIONS HAVE CREATED A BASIS WHICH WILL FACILITATE FUTURE CONSULTATIONS AND INSURE A CONTINUED CLOSE MUTUAL SECURITY RELATIONSHIP. THEY WILL ALSO ENSURE THAT EXISTING FACILITIES MORE EFFICIENTLY MEET BOTH GREEK AND US DEFENSE INTERESTS. (C) DECISIONS WERE TAKEN IN THIS SECOND ROUND WHICH REFLECT THE DESIRE AND INTENTION OF BOTH SIDES TO BRING EXISTING AGREEMENTS UP TO DATE AND TO STRENGTHEN THE BONDS THAT HAVE SO LONG UNITED THE GREEK AND AMERICAN PEOPLE. (C) IT IS IN THIS SPIRIT THAT THE US ACCEDED TO A GREEK REQUEST THAT USNAVAL FORCES NOW STATIONED AT ELEFSIS AND THEIR FAMILIES IN THE ATHENS AREA BE RETURNED TO THE UNITED STATES, THUS TERMINATING THE HOMEPORTING PROGRAM IN GREECE. IT IS ANTICIPATED THAT MOVEMENT OF THE SHIPS, CREWS, AND FAMILIES WILL BEGIN SHORTLY, AND BE CONCLUDED BY LATE SUMMER 1975. HENCEFORTH, USE OF EXISTING FACILITIES AT ELEFSIS WILL BE AVAILABLE ONLY FOR PERIODIC VISITS OF SHIPS OF THE SIXTH FLEET. (FYI: AMBASSADOR CALOGERAS RAISED PRELIMINARY ORAL OBJECTIONS AT THE APRIL 24 PLENARY TO THE INCLUSION OF THIS SENTENCE). (C) THE TWO DELEGATIONS REVIEWED THE OPERATION OF US FACILITIES AT HELLENIKON AND AGREED THAT THE US INSTALLATION ITSELF WOULD BE CLOSED, BUT THAT THOSE ACTIVITIES WHICH SERVE BOTH GREEK AND US DEFENSE INTERESTS WOULD CONTINUE AND BE CONFIDENTIAL

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INCORPORATED IN AN ENLARGED GREEK AIRBASE AT THIS SAME SITE. (F) THERE WERE ALSO DISCUSSIONS CONCERNING US TELECOMMUNICATIONS FACILITIES IN GREECE. THESE DISCUSSIONS EXAMINED WAYS TO EXTEND GREEK PARTICIPATION IN THESE ACTIVITIES AND TO ENHANCE THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS TO GREEK DEFENSE EFFORTS. PROPOSALS WERE EXCHANGED FOR FURTHER STUDY BY THE TWO GOVERNMENTS. (G) VIEWS WERE EXCHANGED ON THE STATUS OF US FORCES IN GREECE, WITH THE OBJECTIVE

OF BRINGING UP TO DATE THE EXISTING COJPLEX OF
ARRANGEMENTS. (H) FURTHER EXAMINATION OF THE ISSUES
DISCUSSED AT THIS SECOND ROUND WILL CONTINUE IN THE TWO
CAPITALS. MEANWHILE, THE GREEK GOVERNMENT WILL EXAMINE
WITH THE US AND ITS OTHER ALLIES THE OPEN QUESTIONS
RAISED BY THE NEW GREEK RELATIONSHIP WITH NATO.
KUBISCH

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